

April 2022

Sylvan Lake Shoreline

Five Reasons to Join the Sylvan Lake Summer Volleyball League

1. Meet new people and see friends
2. Get active or mix up your workouts
3. Hone your volleyball skills
4. An affordable night out
5. It's FUN!



Join our league for a fun and social time on the court. Whether you are new to volleyball or an experienced player, all levels are welcome! The cost is \$5 for residents and \$10 for non-residents. Sign up by June 1st.



Photo by Mike Traban

Games will be played on Tuesday nights with a mixture of game time between 6:30pm and 7:30pm and take place at either Schwerman Park or Bjorklund Park. The season begins on June 7th and ends with a Championship tournament in early August. You can either sign up as a full team or as an individual to be placed on a team. Please let me know if you would be interested in Captaining a team or need to be placed on a team at lauriemackay@gmail.com or 847-452-2205.

Inside

[Who, What are Eco-Chics?](#)

[Dam Modification Project](#)

[Eco-Corner #22](#)

[Parks & Easements](#)

[Dog Waste Management](#)

Sylvan Lake Website

www.slia.net

The Sylvan Lake website provides up-to-date information on events and activity around the lake. You can also download the latest Shoreline, participate on a message board, and learn about the history of Sylvan Lake.

The updated website is ready for your use. The only place that requires a password is for the Sylvan Lake Phone Directory under the **Association, Contacts** tab.

If you don't have the password, send an email message to Sylvanlakers@gmail.com and request it.

Who, What are Eco-Chics ?

The Eco-Chics are simply a group of like-minded folks who care about our natural environments here on Sylvan Lake. We monitor areas for invasive plants so that native plants have the chance to multiply.



Photo by Mike Traban

Why is this important?

Native plants are deep rooted and help with erosion control by keeping the soil where it is rather than washing into the lake. Besides that very important benefit, the critters around here benefit too, providing food and sometimes shelter.

We recently made seed balls using soil, powdered clay and seed collected from last years flowering plants. Right now they are chillin ‘ out in our freezers and will be distributed after clean up day so they can melt down and begin to take root.

During Clean Up activities we will be removing invasive species like buckthorn, reed canary grass, creeping Charlie and many others. Consider helping us and learning what should stay and what should not. It will help you in your own yards.

We certainly welcome Eco-Guys too, don’t be shy guys. Thanks to all who have helped in the past with contributing to a more native landscape here and keeping the soil where it belongs.

Even if you don’t live on the lake, your soil easily washes into the lake after rains.

Jeri Swanson

Dam Modification Project

Our 100-year-old dam will finally be replaced now that funding passed the House and Senate totalling 1.3M. The proposal was funded through a new congressional initiative, Community Project Funding, which allows members of Congress to directly request funding for projects that benefit their constituencies. This funding was bundled in a package of more than \$10.5 million in investments for Rep. Lauren Underwood’s 14th District and benefits communities in the area.

With the delay in funding and the current Gilmer/ Midlothian Rd project underway, our representatives at Fremont Township and Lake County are now looking to start the project next year. We’ll continue to keep everyone updated as the schedule gets solidified, but for now we can expect full use of our lake this year.

Full details of the project is located on our website:

<https://slia.net/dam-project/>



Photo by Mike Traban 2

ECO-CORNER #22

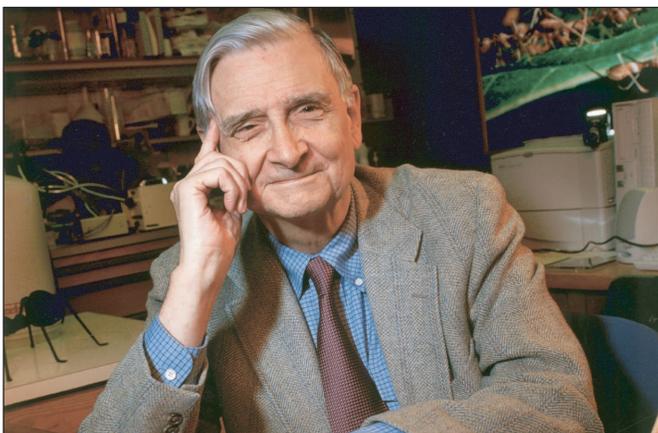
by Jenn Cameron

SCIENCE NEWS & INFO UPDATES

The environment of Sylvan Lake is an important piece in the ecology puzzle of the Fremont Township area. Our SLIA land and waterways also connect to environments way beyond the survey stakes of our neighborhood. Since the publication of December's Shoreline, ecological and environmental impact news from all over the planet continued over the winter.

Here are a few news nuggets from beyond Sylvan Lake:

- Edward O. Wilson, a famed U.S. naturalist and conservation authority and a contemporary of David Attenborough, died in December 2021.



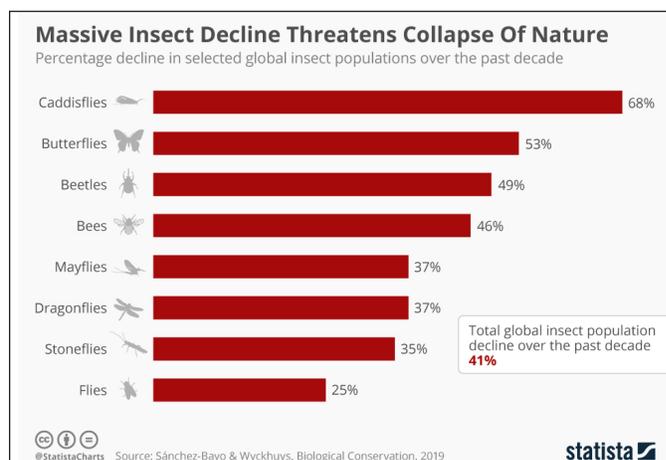
Dr. Wilson established the Half-Earth Project to encourage conservation of half of the Earth's land and sea areas in order to protect the biodiversity of the planet. E.O. Wilson wrote, "The drive toward perpetual expansion—or personal freedom—is basic to the human spirit. But to sustain it we need the most delicate, knowing stewardship of the living world that can be devised."

- Illinois continues to send large amounts of phosphorus and nitrogen (think fertilizer and sewage runoff) to the Gulf of Mexico through connected watersheds and waterways. Illinois is falling behind on federal benchmarks to reduce its excessive 'nutrient' runoff that feeds algae bloom cycles which decreases dissolved oxygen in the water and results in 'dead



zones' affecting the survival of fish and other aquatic organisms. For the 2021 season, according to NOAA, the dead zone covered about 6,334 square miles!

- The world's insect population is in decline. Insects play critical roles in pollinating the plants we eat and in maintaining healthy forests and grassland ecosystems. Insects are at the base of a food chain that other animals — including humans — rely upon. As world food demands increase for various reasons, reliable insect pollination is vital, and without a healthy insect population, well, there goes the animal and human populations too. Three-quarters of the world's flowering plants and about a third of the world's food crops depend on pollinators at some stage!



<https://www.half-earthproject.org>

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/environment/ct-nutrient-pollution-illinois-algae-20211221-uz3p3f6dxrcjzls6ofzfprdkny-story.html>

<https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandso-da/2022/02/24/1082752634/the-insect-crisis-oliver-milman>

Parks & Easements

Spring Cleanup

Spring cleanup is coming up next month. This year we will be trying something different to give more people the opportunity to participate. It is scheduled for Sunday May 15th and will run from 9-4, split in two shifts. The first shift will run 9-12 followed by lunch at the beach from 12-1. If you can't make the first shift, meet at the beach for lunch and the second shift will follow from 1-4. If you are interested in being a captain or have any suggestions on work needing to be done, please email Sarah Owen at sarahstoeckel@gmail.com. More information will be emailed out later. Thank you again to all those who volunteered for last fall's cleanup day!



Photo by Mike Traban

Check out our amazing natural areas

Take a muddy walk down Oak Terrace or Hiawatha Terrace to check out Ravinia. Ravinia is our largest easement and is so important to the health of our lake. In spring after a good rain, water rushes through Ravinia's creeks and floods its basin before entering the lake. All the work done over the years has been vital to stop all that silt before it reaches the bay. Then throughout the seasons, native flowers take over for a show of color. It is a gem that we don't all realize is there.

Maple Park is equally as spectacular and a favorite

for the neighborhood kids. Walk through Maple Park this spring to enjoy the creek and see all our woodland spring ephemerals. Please remember,



Photo by Mike Traban

in any natural area it is important to stay on the paths to not disturb the native fauna and wildlife.

What to expect in our parks and easements this year

Seeding will be done in Schwermann Park, the beach and Oak Terrace. Please refrain from walking in newly seeded areas.

Maple Park's continued shoreline restoration has been postponed until after the lake is lowered next year. In the meantime, ILM (Integrated Lakes Management) will start to control the weed growth in this area while servicing the rest of Maple Park. ILM will also lead a volunteer day this fall to help remove some of the excessive brush in Maple Park and Briar Terrace to promote more native woodland species.



Photo by Mike Traban

Parks & Easements continued on next page

Parks & Easements

Thanks to our amazing volunteers

Our parks and easements are constantly being improved by our amazing neighborhood volunteers.

Thank you for all you do.

Thank you to the Garden Club for donating daffodil bulbs last fall. They are popping up now at the beach, Schwermann Park and along W Sylvan at Bjorkland Park. I can't wait to see them bloom!



Special thanks to Al Grandt and Glen Makinski for their hard work over in Ravinia. These guys are amazing! They spent several days removing invasive trees and shrubs, clearing the area underbrush, organizing boat storage, repairing bridges and piers, and clearing walking paths. Cutting back and clearing this area will reduce shade, allowing for more native wetland flowers to thrive.

Special thanks to John Rollinger for removing the Ash tree at Schwerman park last fall that was infested with Emerald Ash Borers.

As always, thank you Andi Dickinson for your never ending work in Bjorkland and the triangle park. And thank you to the Eco Chics for constantly improving our neighborhood's ecosystem while enhancing its beauty through removing invasive species and replacing them with native ones.

Dog Waste Management

Dog waste is a major pollutant and contaminant of the water supply (causing a serious health issue). Proper clean up of pets limits the amount of pathogens that can be washed into waterways. Appropriate disposal includes bringing a bag, picking up the waste and then disposing of the trash.

Benefits

- Results in less organic debris and bacteria in waterways, which can lead to high nutrient levels and low dissolved oxygen levels in streams and lakes.
- Preventing serious health issues to humans and other animals



Thank You, Dan Trahan

SLIA Board

President.....	Dan Trahan
Vice President.....	Cliff Gartner
Treasurer.....	Ed Meltzer
Secretary.....	Jeremy Vale
Parks & Easements	Sarah Owen
Lake	Tom Truffer
Beach	Peter Lind
Recreation	Laurie MacKay

Garden Club

President.....	Tammie Trahan
Vice President.....	Kathy Ford
Treasurer.....	Kelly Dickenson
Secretary.....	Peggy De La Cruz

Board Members

Jen Crow	Nancy Hanson
Lauren Rollinger	Jen Scharff
Olga Zavialov	Karen Finerty
Debbie Pomazal	Nancy Brashear
Mariann Mortensen	

Newsletter Designed and Edited by

Jeanne Peterson	Dan Trahan
Melissa Kitzmiller	Andrew Kitzmiller